

Message Text

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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 020809

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR GREECE AND
TURKEY

1. GREEK EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR (TSILAS) WAS INVITED
TO DEPT JAN 25 FOR A DISCUSSION OF ADMINISTRATION'S FY 79
SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR GREECE. EUR/SE DIRECTOR
GAVE GREEK EMBOFF INFORMAL PAPER WITH FOLLOWING TEXT:

2. BEGIN TEXT: CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION DOCUMENT.
FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR GREECE AND TURKEY.
THE FOLLOWING FORMAT WILL BE USED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL
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PRESENTATION DOCUMENT:

(DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

- FMS MAP IMETP (TRAINING)

GREECE \$122,000(A) --(B) --(B)

TURKEY \$175,000(A) --(B) --(B)

(A) IF THE DCA SHOULD COME INTO EFFECT IN FY 1978, THE LEVELS OF FMS FINANCING REQUESTED HEREIN WILL BE REVISED TO REFLECT LEVELS AGREED UPON FOR THE SECOND, RATHER THAN

FIRST, YEAR OF THE DCA, I.E. DOLS 140 MILLION FOR GREECE, DOLS 200 MILLION FOR TURKEY.

(B) IF THE DCA SHOULD COME INTO EFFECT IN FY 1978 OR FY 1979, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD REQUEST A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO MEET ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THE DCA.
END TEXT.

3. IN DISCUSSING ASSISTANCE LEVELS WITH GREEK EMBOFF, DEPTOFF DREW ON FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH POSTS MAY USE AS APPROPRIATE IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS:

-- FIGURES PROPOSED FOR FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ARE BASED ON MILITARY SALES CREDITS WHICH WOULD BE PROVIDED DURING THE FIRST YEAR THE GREEK AND TURKISH DCA'S ARE IN EFFECT.

-- THE SELECTION OF FIRST-YEAR RATHER THAN SECOND-YEAR
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FIGURES WAS REGARDED AS THE MOST LOGICAL AND JUSTIFIABLE CHOICE, IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE GREEK AND TURKISH DCA'S.

-- THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN WITH KEEPING BUDGET FIGURES LOW WEIGHED HEAVILY IN THE DECISION TO REQUEST NO MAP OR IMETP FOR EITHER GREECE OR TURKEY.

-- ALSO, THE REQUEST FOR WORLDWIDE GRANT AID WAS CONSONANT WITH EXISTING LEGISLATION WHICH REQUIRES THAT, ABSENT COMMITMENTS CONTAINED IN A TREATY OR AGREEMENT, RELATIVELY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE.

-- THUS, IN FY 79, MAP ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR ONLY FOUR COUNTRIES. SPAIN (TO WHICH THE U.S. IS OBLIGATED BY TREATY TO PROVIDE MAP), JORDAN, THE PHILIPPINES AND PORTUGAL. THE LATTER THREE HAVE AN AVERAGE GNP PER CAPITA OF DOLS 820.

-- IN THE CASE OF GREECE, THE U.S. PROVIDED GRANT ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING 1974 AS PART OF A BROAD-SCALE EFFORT TO

SUPPORT THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN GREECE. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT SUCH AID WOULD BE PHASED OUT AFTER FY 77, BUT IT WAS DECIDED EARLY IN 1977 TO PROVIDE GRANT AID FOR ONE MORE YEAR (FY 78) ON THE BASIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, CLARK CLIFFORD, AS A "BRIDGE" TO THE ANTICIPATED

COMPLETION, SIGNATURE AND APPROVAL OF THE DCA PRIOR TO FY 79.

-- THE ADMINISTRATION HAS FLEXIBILITY TO INCREASE FMS LEVELS AND TO REQUEST SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY GRANT ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DCA'S IF THESE AGREEMENTS DO TAKE EFFECT IN FY 78.
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4. TSILAS ASKED WHAT WOULD BE THE PRECISE IMPACT ON FY 78 FUNDING IF THE DCA WERE IMPLEMENTED IN FY 78. HE UNDERSTOOD FROM FOOTNOTE A THAT THE FMS FIGURE FOR FY 79 WOULD BE REVISED TO REFLECT A SECOND-YEAR LEVEL, BUT ASKED WHETHER, SINCE GREECE ALREADY IS AUTHORIZED DOLS 140 MILLION IN FMS FINANCING IN FY 78, THAT FIGURE WOULD BE REDUCED TO DOLS 122 MILLION (THE DCA FIRST-YEAR LEVEL) OR WHETHER AN ADJUSTMENT WOULD BE MADE SOME TIME BEYOND FY 79. TSILAS WAS TOLD THAT THE EMPHASIS IN THE FOOTNOTES WAS ON MEETING ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS THROUGH A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST AND THERE WAS NO IMPLICATION THAT A REDUCTION IN CURRENT ASSISTANCE LEVELS WOULD RESULT. IT WAS STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAMS FOR FY 79 ARE IN THE FORM OF PROPOSALS MADE TO THE CONGRESS AND THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT HOW THEY WILL EMERGE FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY AND ACTION. THE QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DCA IN FY 78 WAS IN ANY EVENT CURRENTLY HYPOTHETICAL; IT WAS THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE A DEFINITIVE ANSWER ON WHAT PRECISELY WOULD OCCUR UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE DESCRIBED.

5. DEPTOFF MADE SIMILAR PRESENTATION JAN 25 TO TURKISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR (NURES), PROVIDED COPY OF INFORMAL PAPER (PARA 2 ABOVE), AND DREW ON ALL BUT SIXTH TALKING POINT PARA 3 ABOVE.

6. DEPTOFF ALSO DREW ATTENTION OF GREEK AND TURKISH EMBASSIES TO FOLLOWING EXTRACT FROM PRESIDENT'S FY 79 BUDGET MESSAGE:

BEGIN TEXT: THE PROGRAM IS SHIFTING EMPHASIS FROM GRANT
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MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS AS THE IMPROVING ECONOMIC SITUATION OF SOME RECIPIENT COUNTRIES ENABLES THEM TO ASSUME A GREATER SHARE OF THEIR DEFENSE BURDEN. THE PROPOSED BUDGET AUTHORITY OF DOLS 134 MILLION IN GRANT ASSISTANCE DOES NOT INCLUDE FUNDS FOR GREECE AND TURKEY. UPON FINAL APPROVAL OF THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY, ADDITIONAL GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE FUNDS WILL BE REQUESTED BY THE

ADMINISTRATION. VANCE

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